



July 28, 2006

Cocaine trafficker is sentenced for drug deals and a gun

A federal judge today sentenced **Luis Tobal Almonte**, 28, formerly of Providence, to ten years in prison for trafficking in cocaine and having a gun. Agents for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force arrested Almonte in January 2005 after he made seven cocaine sales to an undercover agent over the course of two months.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In September 2005, Tobal Almonte pled guilty to seven counts of distributing cocaine and two firearms charges: being a felon in possession of a firearm and having a firearm in connection with a drug-trafficking offense.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers said that the government could prove that Tobal Almonte sold cocaine to a HIDTA agent seven times between November 2004 and January 2005. The first six sales were for amounts ranging from an ounce to three ounces. On January 19, 2005, Tobal Almonte met the agent in a parking lot in Garden City to sell him a kilogram of cocaine and was arrested after he handed the agent the package of cocaine.

HIDTA agents searched Tobal Almonte's apartment on Bergen Street in Providence and, secreted above the basement ceiling, found about 52 grams of cocaine and a .25 caliber pistol.

Tobal Almonte has a prior felony conviction in New York for gang assault.

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